

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19, and 20 remain pending in the instant application. All claims presently stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6,-9, 12, and, 16 are amended herein. Claims 3, 10, 14, and 18 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for failing to comply with antecedent basis requirements. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 have been amended to cure the antecedent basis issues.

Claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Accordingly, claims 6 and 16 have been amended to cure the indefinite issues.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano et al. (US 6,912,602) in view of Patterson et al. (“Computer Architecture A Quantitative Approach”).

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites, in pertinent part

wherein the striping policy assigns a first processor of the plurality of processors to the first descriptor according the following relationship:

Processor Assignment = Descriptor_Position mod N,
where Descriptor_Position is a descriptor ring position of the first descriptor and N is a total number of the plurality of processors.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Sano and Patterson fails to teach or suggest a striping policy that assigns a processor of a plurality of processors to a descriptor according to the above recited relationship where ‘N’ is the total number of the processors.

To be sure, the Examiner acknowledges that Sano “does not teach that the first descriptor is placed in a descriptor ring according to a striping policy to prevent false sharing of the cache line of the computer system.” *Office Action* mailed 1/17/06, page 4. Therefore, the Examiner cites Patterson as teaching this missing element.

However, Patterson does not disclose, teach, or suggest a technique for assigning processors to descriptors. Rather, Patterson discloses a technique of interleaved memory including multiple memory banks where

[t]he mapping of an address to a location in a memory bank can be expressed as two problems:

Bank number = Address MOD **Number of banks**

Address within bank = [Address/Number of banks]

Patterson, page 436. Accordingly, Patterson discloses a technique of mapping addresses to locations in memory banks—not how to assign processors to descriptors in a descriptor ring.

Furthermore, Patterson fails to teach or suggest “mod N” where N is a number of processors. Rather Patterson discloses “mod Number of banks”. A number of memory banks cannot reasonably be interpreted as teaching a number of processors.

Consequently, the combination of Sano and Patterson fails to teach or suggest all elements of claim 1, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Independent claim 8, 12, and 16 include similar nonobvious elements as independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 8, 12, and 16 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are nonobvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections of the dependent claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

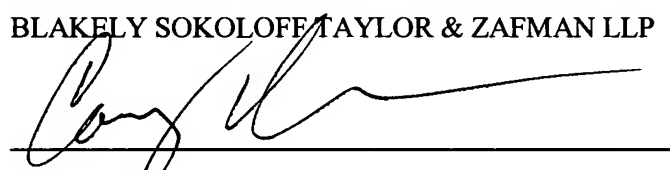
CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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